

**GIVE A HOG A HOME**  
**SOUTH MIDLANDS AND EAST MIDLANDS**  
**REDROW HOMES**

**BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: Small Scale**

**Project overview**

Give a Hog a Home is an initiative run by Redrow homes in our South and East Midlands divisions as part of the wider strategy to help hedgehogs on developments and biodiversity on developments. The project ran alongside National Hedgehog Week and involved staff, customers, the local community and schools.

**What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?**

The project took place over multiple sites but with two key sites driving the project, Caddington Woods and Oak View. Oak View is an area of trees which have been incorporated into the site and Caddington Woods was previously a car manufacturer car storage area surrounded by ancient woodland. The Caddington site is an important site for biodiversity work with its low pre-development biodiversity but high surrounding biodiversity; it has since been calculated as a biodiversity Net-Gain development. The work with hedgehogs is not a result of planning permission but an understanding as a company of the needs of biodiversity and the impact we can have.

**What were the reasons behind this project ?**

We felt it was important that this project didn't just continue our hedgehog work but developed and grew that work so that people continued to be engaged. As part of our biodiversity strategy we have looked at varying aspects of biodiversity on site and how we can reduce negative impacts and create positive impacts, with our direct impact on wildlife such as hedgehogs being a key aspect. The decline of hedgehogs due to fencing and gardens is well understood and National hedgehog Week provided the perfect opportunity to promote the work we are undertaking to help hedgehogs.



*Hedgehog Hotel at Caddington Woods*



*Ancient Woodland Surrounding Caddington Development*

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Give a Hog a Home project was a campaign to raise awareness of the plight of the hedgehogs during Hedgehog Awareness Week. As part of this campaign our South Midlands division hosted expert hedgehog/nature talks from the Wildlife Trust at our Caddington Woods and Oak View developments. The local community were invited to attend the sessions and donations were organised to the Wildlife Trust. In both the Midlands and South Midlands divisions we organised hedgehog home donations to local schools. In South Midlands, developments have been ensuring hedgehog highways are in place on site, while developments in the East Midlands division are giving all home buyers the option of having a hedgehog home when they move in.

From the positive feedback and outcomes of the project we feel this is something that can be replicated within all our divisions and with the communication used and annual event of hedgehog week is something that can be implemented and managed as a long standing enhancement. As a project it has created a large amount of new habitats for Hedgehogs on developments and in the local area, as well as potentially further afield with donations made to the wildlife trust. With the previous conditions of Caddington being a brownfield site, along with other developments in the division, it has meant the ecological value of the area has been increased and will encourage more hedgehogs and potentially other biodiversity to the area and aiding the Caddington Woods site to be a Biodiversity Net Gain development. Both staff and the local community have been involved, with staff and workers installing hedgehog highways and homes and engaging with customers to promote the hedgehog highways and homes. Education for customers, staff and local community was provided through wildlife talks and donation of hedgehog homes to local schools.



*Hedgehog Highway in development garden*



*Hedgehog Home being donated to local school*



### Further information

The project was installed through a number of stages. The hedgehog highways were designed into the developments gardens and fencing, which were then installed by site teams as plots were completed and signage designed and installed to make house owners aware of the highways. The hedgehog homes are installed into gardens as plots are completed with customers informed of the homes and their use, with other hedgehog homes donated and installed at local schools. The Wildlife Trust talks were arranged at two developments in line with National Hedgehog Awareness week with communication and PR sent out to customers and the local community inviting them to attend the talks.

In terms of monitoring there is data available from Caddington's Net gain study to provide a baseline for what biodiversity was like prior to the work, however, it is still relatively early to measure the impact of the Give a Hog a Home project on all developments but the results will be monitored. Because of the nature of project, the potential longevity and the communication and education provided, it is felt a legacy will be left even after the developments have finished, where hedgehogs will be able to freely roam and hibernate with an understanding of the their needs in the surrounding community.

All those involved in the project have felt the benefit, with staff and workers more aware of how we can help on developments, the trust receiving vital support through donations and the community engaged in something that they might not previously have been aware of.

### What was the motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The hedgehog is one of the most iconic British creatures, and it's estimated that their numbers have fallen by 30 per cent since 2002. As a house builder we understand the impact we can have on the hedgehog decline with the gardens and fences we install. Biodiversity and ecology on site is important to us a company and we are continuously looking for ways in which we can reduce our impact and help biodiversity thrive on and around our sites. National Hedgehog Week provided the perfect opportunity to run a project that would help hedgehogs and that could be replicated across the business.



*Hedgehog Home donation to local primary school*